

The Garry V. Sackett House
Seneca Falls, N.Y.

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HABS NY-221

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK-2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Walter H. Cassebeer, District Officer
84 Exchange St., Rochester, N.Y.

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Garry V. Sackett House
West Bayard and Sackett Streets, Seneca Falls, N.Y.

OWNER: Mrs. Charles R. Meston
455 North Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y.

OCCUPANT: Miss Mary Van Rensselaer

DATE OF ERECTION: 1833

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER:

PRESENT CONDITION: The stone building is in good state of preservation, the stone work, entrances and especially to leaded work in both the netrance and oval window are intact. The interior is also in almost the original state. Few changes have ever been made, in the interior. The kitchen in the basement was once a bed room, a partition between the outside rear entrance and the Dining Room having been removed. There was once an exterior door to the Sitting Room which has been replaced by a window, (the north one). On the first floor the doorway between the Library and Parlor was a later change. At the Front Entrance between the stone plinths there has been added a wooden platform.

The rear or frame portion may not have been contemporary with the stone building. It is in poor state of preservation. It was erected to provide shelter for servants and labor employed in the operation of stone quarries on the rear of the premises. There was a door leading from the second story of this addition to the first floor of the stone building to permit servants access to the house. This has now been boarded up. The rear wood addition did not warrant an extensive survey.

NUMBER OF STORIES: There is a basement or Ground Floor but no sub-basement. The First floor is reached by the stone steps at the Front Entrance, and is the main part of the building. Above this is a half story which accomodates the Ball Room and one bed room. The rear frame addition has a ground and a first floor only.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: The main building is of Dressed Stone, probably quarried either on the premises or locally. It is Onondaga Limestone. The larger stone for lintels, steps, and main entrance stone may possibly have been brought in from Fayetteville on the Old Erie, where considerable stone of larger sizes was quarried and finished. The interior is plastered throughout on lath. Floors are wide pine and bass wood boards now covered with carpets. The trim with the exception of stair rails and newels is probably basswood. Newels and rails are cherry.

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All rooms in the frame addition except the barn and loft are plastered.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:

The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, April 14, 1935

ADDITIONAL DATA:

The following information is furnished by Mrs. C.R. Meston, the owner of the building.

Garry V. Sackett was born in Litchfield County, Conn. in 1790, and died in 1865. His father, William Sackett was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. The family moved to Aurelius, Cayuga County in 1803, and later settled in Seneca Falls, N.Y. (1814).

At the age of 21 he was admitted to the Courts (of law) in the State of New York. In 1814 with Luther Stevens he opened the first law office in Seneca Falls. He was one of the first judges of the old Court of Common Pleas of Seneca County. (1823.)

In 1823 Judge Sackett purchased for his use and home, 600 acres of land at the cost of \$12. per acre. In 1833 he erected the stately stone mansion at a cost of \$7000. The plans of the Stone building were secured in England and were the ancient plans of the family home of Mrs. Sackett. Mrs Meston states that as far as she can find out the stone was quarried at Fayette. (Fayetteville, a suburb of Syracuse N.Y. (W.H.C.)). Judge Sackett also built many of the principal buildings of early Seneca Falls including the Sackett Block. He was the first Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church, formed in 1831.

Many of the prominent men of that day visited the "Stone House". Here many a consultation was held on political questions of State and National concern. The famous Seneca Chief, "Red Jacket" often called and talked over the misfortunes of his people. Gov. Wm H. Seward and President Filmore were close personal friends.

The house has been continuously owned and occupied by decedents of Judge Sackett. For a number of years it was known as the William V. VanRensselaer Home, a grandson. It is now used as a summer home by the Owner, Mrs Meston, a great grand-daughter.

Walter H. Cassebeer
District Officer NY3

Reviewed July 8-36, T.W.